



August 3, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, my job is to ensure our businesses have the policy regime and infrastructure to grow and prosper. In short, my job is to help create jobs.

Maine is a rural state, and with a population of only 1.3 million, we are also a remarkably small market. Our economy is largely driven by small business and entrepreneurialism with our major employers competing for talent on quality of life. Companies settle in Maine, because in addition to our quality of life; our work ethic is second to none.

The state of Maine has made great progress over the past few years. Three years ago, we changed our energy policy paradigm attracting new investment in efficiency and R&D. This year, we overhauled the regulatory environment, essentially getting burdensome government out of the way of the free market. The legislature even made serious changes to the tax structure, to help boost economic growth in the state.

The State competed for and won a grant to build the Three Ring Binder project, designed to finally bring DSL access to specific rural parts of the state. This is a major investment to bridge the digital divide in this state and we are grateful for the economic stimulus funds that brought that to fruition. Ground was broken on the project this month.

There are, however, limits to what small states can do to increase their economic potential. Because of our rural market in part of the state, we have not been able to invest in a comprehensive telecommunications infrastructure to the degree necessary to reach that "last mile." In this global economy, there is no meaningful way for a business owner to compete without connectivity.

This is why I am writing in support of the continuance of the LightSquared initiative. First, this is all private investment, ensuring a level playing field for businesses. As this is a wholesale only initiative, it also has the potential to drive competition in new ways. I can think of several small Maine businesses who would jump at the chance to provide world class wireless services to their customers if given an affordable opportunity to compete with the larger national companies.

Further, building out a 21st Century 4G broadband wireless infrastructure allows business owners and entrepreneurs to finally compete equitably regardless of where they live.

As I said before, Maine businesses often compete on quality of life. We become exponentially more competitive when people can be assured their cell phones will work and they can access the internet at high speeds, regardless of what part of the state they choose to live.

There is no question, this country needs a reliable GPS system in place, however, businesspeople should not have to choose between reliable GPS and world class broadband internet access. I encourage the FCC to continue working toward a reasonable solution that ensures urban and rural businesspeople have both.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Connors", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dana Connors
President